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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004

Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND CONSIDERATION OF  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 filed September 15, 2004 with the IDS as acknowledgment of receipt and consideration thereof. A courtesy copy of that PTO-1449, IDS and references filed therewith, as well as a copy of applicants' representatives' postcard receipt evidencing receipt of these documents by the PTO, are enclosed.

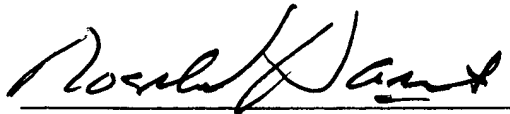
Serial No. 10/826,696

Should there be any questions regarding this matter, the appropriate Patent and Trademark Office official is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

January 31, 2005  
Date

  
Roger W. Parkhurst  
Registration No. 25,177

RWP/ame

Attorney Docket No. WATK:265

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.  
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PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS  
AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT  
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DEP. ACCT. 16-0331  
PARKHURST & WENDEL

**WATK:265**

Atty. Docket No.

Description: **IDS; Form PTO 1449; Int'l Search Rpt; Refs(5)**

Inventor(s): **Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.**

Title (new cases):

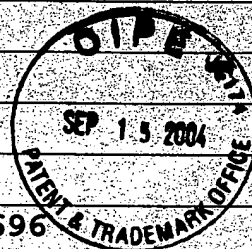
Attorney: **RWP:k1b**

Serial No.: **10/826,696**

Paper(s) Filed: **September 15, 2004**

Date(s) Satisfied: **None**

N.D.D.: **None**



*a*



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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of an International Search Report bearing a mailing date of August 3, 2004, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

Serial No. 10/826,696

Cited patent US 4,047,894 corresponds to Japanese Patent Publication No. 50-10281.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.



Roger W. Parkhurst  
Registration No. 25,177

September 15, 2004  
Date

RWP/klb

Attorney Docket No.: WATK:265

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*\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.*